

CONSTABLE SKETCHES FROM LONDON  
COMPOSE EXHIBIT AT ART MUSEUM

An exhibition of 72 works of art by the English landscape painter John Constable (1776-1837) opens at The Cleveland Museum of Art December 1 and continues through January 2. The exhibition illuminates the whole sweep of Constable's career and includes oil paintings, watercolors and drawings.

The sketches were selected from the Victoria and Albert Museum's large Constable holdings (a bequest from Constable's daughter Isabel) by the Museum's Keeper of Prints, Drawings and Paintings, Mr. Graham Reynolds, who also wrote the accompanying catalog. The Smithsonian Institution is circulating the exhibit in the United States.

SKETCHES BY CONSTABLE documents at length, and for the first time in America, one important aspect of the artist's work --- his ability to achieve a faultless naturalism never surpassed in expressiveness or truth. He presented landscape in its fullest detail and mood; he conveyed the changing aspects of the seasons and the different types of light and atmospheric effects. For models he used only the landscape intimately familiar to him. His subject material was limited to the areas surrounding his birthplace such as the valley of the Stour, the villages of Dedham and East Bergholt, the cathedral city of Salisbury and the neighborhoods of Osmington, Hampstead, Brighton and Arundel.

With the exception of four works, the sketches are all means to an end. Some are preliminary studies for well-known paintings and some are sketchbook paintings. All served as visual notes which Constable might use either almost immediately, or perhaps not until many years later, in order to complete a canvas. Constable, primarily self-educated, thought out and labored intensely over each work. As a result, this rather obstinate and very determined and talented artist became one of England's greatest landscape painters.